



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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and Public Affairs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 22, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 17 totaled an estimated 18.0 billion ton-miles, 16.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 187.2 billion ton-miles, 12.2 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 17 totaled 409,616 cars, the highest since the week ended February 20, 1982. The March 17 week was 15.2 percent above 1983, and 1.9 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 18.7 percent in the East, 11.8 percent in the South and 15.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 13 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of metallic ores were up 5,062 cars (42.1 percent), motor vehicles and equipment increased by 4,693 cars (28.1 percent), coal loadings posted a gain of 21,930 cars (22.1 percent) and grain loadings were up 3,222 cars (12.2 percent). Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 10 totaled 51,189 cars, up 19.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 89,347 trailers and/or containers, 20.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 10 weeks of the year was 484,212 cars, 16.1 percent higher than last year, and 848,293 trailers and/or containers, up 18.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/17/84:

	Loadings in Week ended March 17, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,590	I	3,222	12.2	I	2,596	8.8
Other farm products	3,343	D	102	3.0	D	57	1.7
Metallic ores	17,100	I	5,062	42.1	I	1,201	7.0
Coal	121,223	I	21,930	22.1	I	3,734	3.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,682	I	1,385	16.7	D	25	0.3
Nonmetallic minerals	11,903	D	23	0.2	D	388	3.3
Grain mill products	11,467	D	15	0.1	I	201	1.6
Food and kindred products	10,720	D	1,484	8.8	D	253	2.4
Primary forest products	14,517	D	402	2.7	I	633	4.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,835	I	517	7.1	I	62	0.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,893	D	515	3.3	I	347	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	26,069	I	2,485	10.5	I	654	2.5
Petroleum products	5,028	I	517	11.5	D	93	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,059	I	1,467	15.3	I	140	1.3
Coke	5,239	I	364	7.5	D	126	2.4
Metals and products	10,496	I	1,532	17.1	I	37	0.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,406	I	4,693	28.1	D	635	3.0
Waste and scrap materials	10,664	I	2,186	25.8	I	60	0.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,394	D	1,423	16.1	D	41	0.6
All other carloads	59,735	I	12,618	26.8	D	141	0.2
LCL traffic	253	D	2	0.8	D	42	16.6
Total Cars Loaded	409,616	I	54,012	15.2	I	7,864	1.9

Corresponding week of 1983

355,604

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	4,226,905	3,793,277	I 11.4

Estimated revenue ton-miles
(in billions):

10 weeks ended March 10	169.2	151.4	I 11.7
Week ended March 17	18.0	15.5	I 16.3
11 weeks cumulative	187.2	166.9	I 12.2